

2011

Smartphones, iPads, Netbooks, and Social Networking

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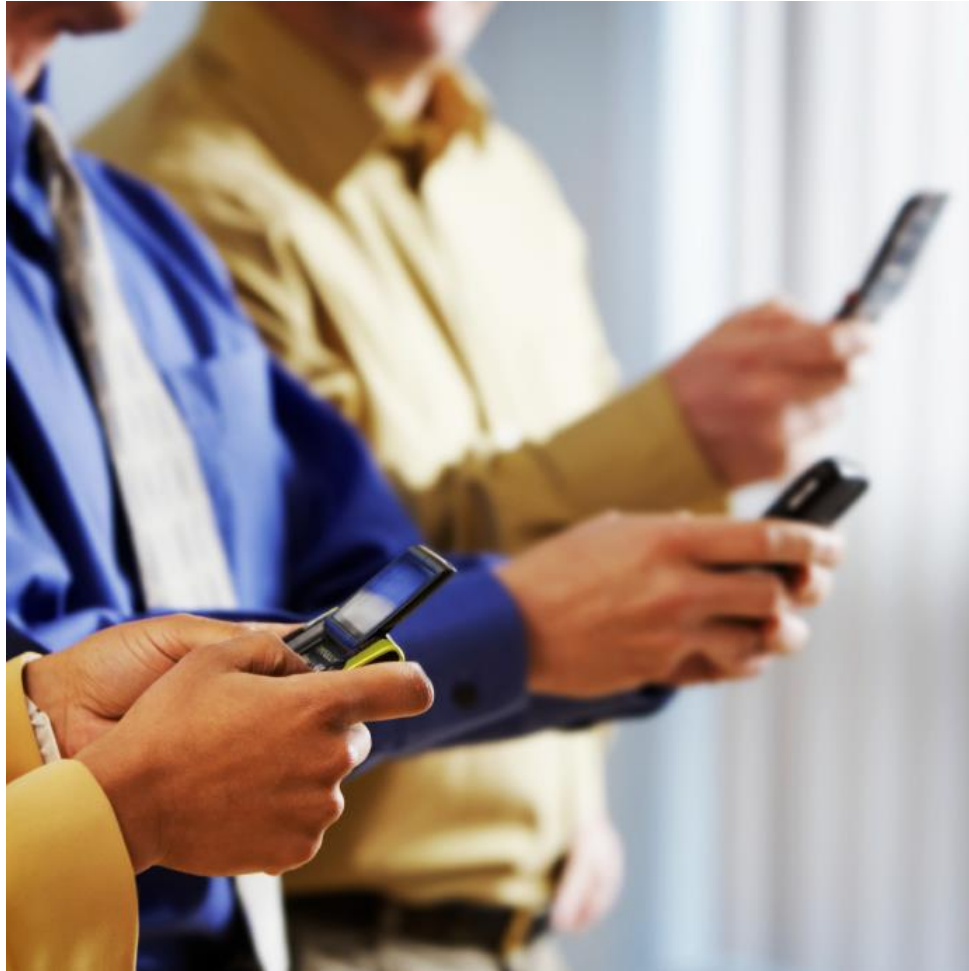
John Glover

Virginia Commonwealth University

VALL/VASLA 2011 Spring Meeting

Smartphones, iPads, Netbooks, and Social Networking

Got Mobile?



Computing Everywhere

- Multiplying mobile devices
 - Blackberry, Eee, iPad, iPhone 4, Sony Tablet
- Internet-based (“cloud”) computing
 - Dropbox, Google Docs, wikis
- Patrons on the move
 - 3G data networks, ubiquitous wireless

The Mobile Librarian

- Tips for connecting with patrons
- Helping patrons with mobile devices
- Using social networking
- Static to mobile mindset

Virginia Commonwealth University

- Large, urban public research institution
- 32,000+ students
- 18,000+ faculty, staff, administrators
- 15 schools and one college

VCU Libraries

- 200,000+ patrons per month at James Branch Cabell Library
- 6,400+ average daily visitors to VCU Libraries' website in the last year



Reference Librarian, Humanities Specialist

- Answer reference questions, teach information literacy sessions, oversee reference collection
- Staff workshops, outreach events
- Provide personalized research services
- Liaise with multiple departments, programs and schools
- **Specialized clientele, specific needs, particular behaviors**

Mobile Devices

- “A mobile device (also known as a handheld device, handheld computer or simply handheld) is a **pocket-sized computing device**, typically having a display screen with touch input and/or a miniature keyboard. In the case of the personal digital assistant (PDA) the input and output are often combined into a touch-screen interface. Smartphones and PDAs are popular amongst those who require **the assistance and convenience of certain aspects of a conventional computer, in environments where carrying one would not be practical.**” [My emphasis]
 - Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_device)

Mobile Beginnings, 2010

- Research and Instructional Services move toward mobile devices
- Proposed iPad purchase, request successful
- Downloaded app(lication)s
 - Dictionaries, document readers, reference titles, games, travel tools, utilities, maps
 - Anything vaguely interesting
 - “Bought” few for-pay apps

After the Honeymoon...

- Mobile device ≠ magical device
- Determining best workplace use
- Sought ideas
- Talked with users
- **Looked for fit with job duties**



Reality Set In

- Not an app developer
- Not a true early adopter
- Not an “app advocate”
- Not concerned with “bleeding edge”

Useful Tools

Daily

- Web browser
 - Safari
- E-mail
 - iPad mail client
- Note taking
 - Notes
- Reader apps
 - iBooks, Bookman

Weekly or Monthly

- Wi-Fi Finder
- Maps
 - Google Maps/ Earth
- Videos
 - YouTube

Reference & Instruction: The Alternate Computer

- Reference desk computers full
- Proximity to patrons
- Varying classroom benefits
- Helping patrons who use laptops

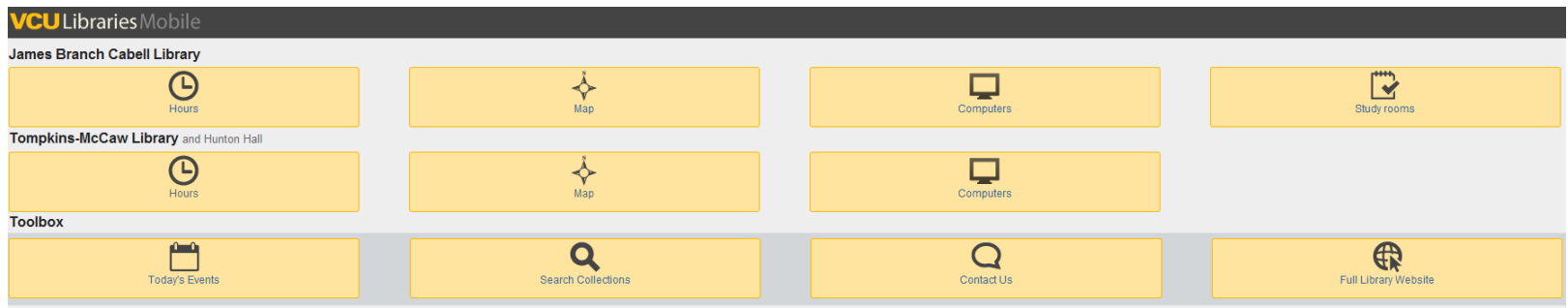
Reference & Instruction: (Real) Roving Reference

- While answering reference questions
- Outreach events
- Going to meetings
- Eating lunch



Reference & Instruction: VCU Libraries' Mobile Site

- Demonstrating site to patrons
- Difference vs. desktop computer



Liaising & Outreach: Making Appointments

- “I’ll call you” vs.
“Wednesday at 2 p.m.”
- Sync with desktop
calendar
- Students, staff, faculty



Liaising & Outreach: Sharing Useful Information

- “Share” on Facebook, RT on Twitter
- Circulate articles, important news postings
- Scheduled blog posts

BOOK reMARKS

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APRIL 25, 2011

[Quick Pick] The Artist and His Mother by Pete Najarian



The Artist and His Mother is a work of creative non-fiction in the form of a novel whose narrator, a painter and writer, composes not only a portrait of himself and his mother, Zaroohie, but a story of a century from when, as a child of ten, she survived the Armenian Genocide in 1915, to her death in America in 2006. The title is after Arshile Gorky's famous paintings of himself and his own mother, and here also the composition is inspired by the ghosts of the massacre. A part of this book won a grant from The National Endowment for the Arts.

[Cabell Library PS3564.A5 A78 2010](#)

Note: Quick Picks are new to the collection. Some may not yet have reached the shelves. If you want to check out an item that is not yet available, click the "Is this item available?" link in the catalog record, then click the "Request" link.

Posted by at 10:00 AM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

APRIL 18, 2011

[Quick Pick] Bird Cloud : a Memoir by Annie Proulx



"Bird Cloud" is the name Annie Proulx gave to 640 acres of Wyoming wetlands and prairie and four-hundred-foot cliffs plunging down to the North Platte River. On the day she first visited, a cloud in the shape of a bird hung in the evening sky. Proulx also saw pelicans, bald eagles, golden eagles, great blue herons, ravens, scores of bluebirds, harriers, kestrels, elk, deer and a dozen antelope. She fell in love with the land, then owned by the Nature Conservancy, and she knew what she wanted to build on it—a house in harmony with her work, her appetites and her character, a library surrounded by bedrooms and a kitchen.

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RESOURCES

[Henrietta Locks Resources](#)
The VCU Libraries' Web page for the UC Summer Reading Program includes reviews, interviews, and more.

[Fiction Connection](#)
A resource for searching U.S. fiction and selected non-fiction. Find similar titles and authors, or browse by topic, genre, setting, character, location, and timeframe. Includes reviews.

ARCHIVES

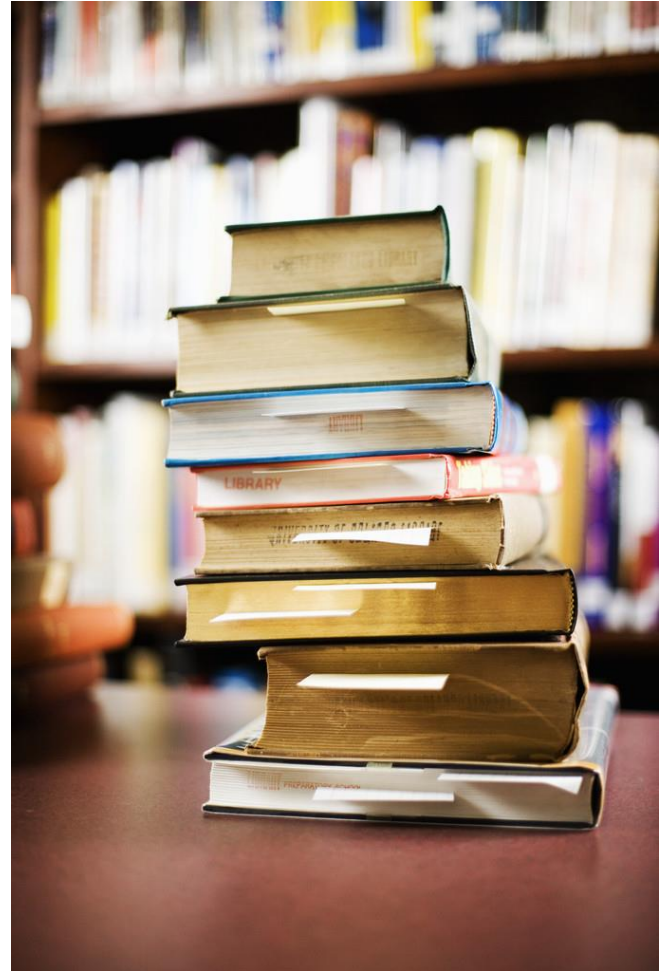
- [April 2011](#)
- [March 2011](#)
- [February 2011](#)
- [January 2011](#)

Liaising & Outreach: Mobile Demonstrations

- Invaluable for talking with stakeholders
- Showing off new tools
- Screen size
 - Device detection
- Mobile fluency

Collections Work: Books on the Run

- Reviewing new titles
- Mobile devices for working in the stacks
- Evaluating titles at conferences
- E-reader awareness



Working on the Go

- Wireless faster, easier than laptop
- Faster feedback about conference sessions
- E-mail pruning

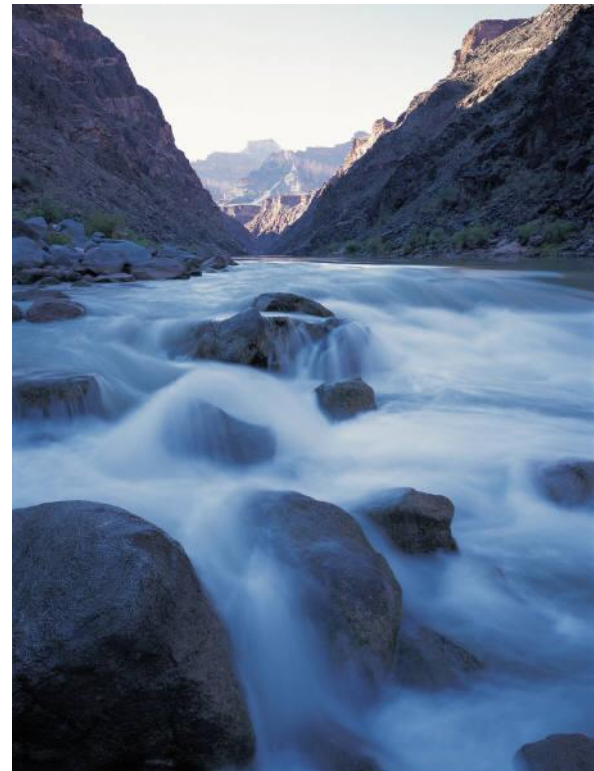
Consolidating Tools

- Note taking
 - Save paper
 - Have to commit
- Paper calendars
- Home computer



Bumps Along the Way

- Resources not under our control
- Physical fragility
 - Mobile device
 - Your body
- Storage, duplication
- Evolving tools and data infrastructure



From Static to Mobile

- Same job
- Change in mindset
- Tool enables more organic interaction
- Patrons see immediate benefits

Questions

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